April 26, 2012 meeting minutes Cambridge GLBT Commission

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012

Call to Order.

Kevin Shpritzer recorded these minutes.

Commissioners introduced each other

Agenda for the April 26 meeting was accepted.

The minutes of the March 22 meeting were approved.

<u>Commissioners Present:</u> John Gintell, Steven Lee, Kevin Shpritzer, Bob Parlin, Aren Stone, Mike McKenna, Gregory Grays-Thomas, Lesley Phillips, Caitlin Drechsler, Robert Coats, Mal Malme, Neil MacInnes-Barker

<u>Commissioners Absent:</u> (excused) – Jeff Walker, Marianne Mondt, Maggie Giles, Dana Zircher, Rebecca Caira-Davila

<u>Guests:</u> Chris Burke (Supt. of Police), Neil S. (member of the public), Kate Thomas (Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services)

I. Boston LGBT Film Festival – Opening night – Friday, May 4

- a. Vice-Mayor Simmons will speak
- b. Please buy tickets to attend the 7:00pm film
- c. On the evening of Pride, they are hosting an adult event. Details are TBD.
- d. On the Sunday of Pride weekend, they are hosting a family event.
- e. They will have a table at MayFair.
- f. Bob will be the liason.

II. Gen Silent – June 14 – 6:30pm – Main Library

- a. Film has been ordered. We have the auditorium and community room next to it at the library.
- b. Have some local co-sponsors for the film: Cambridge Homes, Cadbury Commons, Somerville/Cambridge Elder Services, Cambridge Commission on Aging
- c. Kate Thomas told the commission about the panel that will be at the movie showing including some local "stars" who are in the film. 5 panelists in total.
- d. Publicizing the event is a priority. Postcards would be a good idea.
- e. Kate Thomas is settings CEU's (Continuing Education Credits) for relevant professionals who attend the event.
- f. Aren, Mal, Steven, and Kate Thomas are meeting with Denise Simmons about the showing this week.

III. City Employees Training re: Seniors Project

a. In late June there will be an afternoon social event at the Citywide Senior Center in Central Square. Tuesday, June 26 from 1-3pm.

IV. Seniors project – Next steps

- a. Once *Gen Silent* event is over, what's next?
- b. We're not currently publicizing, so we should put together periodic press releases.
 - i. Steven and Mal will help put these together.
- c. Sending progress updates to the Mayor's office and other commissions. Aren will help get this started.
- d. Kate Thomas thinks that a lot of needs assessments have been done nationally that we can draw upon.

V. Move Meeting Night?

- a. The request was made by Commissioner Jeff Walker to discuss the possibility of changing the day of our monthly meetings.
- b. There are too many complications to attempt to change the night, so we will be keeping it on Thursdays.
- c. The Commission voted unanimously to allow Jeff to remain as a commissioner. We would like him to make every effort to attend meetings, however he will be granted excused absences as needed.

VI. Holocaust Memorial – May 1 – 7pm

- a. Sponsored by the Peace Commission. Temple Beth Shalom.
- b. Gregory and Aren will be participating as members of the commission.

VII. May Fair – May 6 – 12-6pm

- a. Kevin and Gregory switched time slots.
- b. Steven will deliver to John the items he has been holding onto since Danehy Park Family Day last year, because John is on the first shift at May Fair.
- c. The event starts at 12pm, but the first shift should probably arrive a little earlier, let the workers in the green DPW vests know they have arrived, and then the table and chairs will be delivered to our spot.
- d. The last shift should let the DPW workers know we are finished, so the table and chairs do not get stolen. Kevin will take home leftover giveaways.

VIII. Youth Pride – May 19

- a. Mal is arranging the setup
- b. Neil, Maggie and Caitlin will be helping out with the event.

IX. RiverFest – June 2 – 12 – 6pm – Rain or Shine

- a. Kevin has arranged for the commission's participation in the event.
- b. Application has been accepted and request with DPW for a table and chairs is pending approval. It would be great to be situated near the Disabilities, Women's, Peace, and Human Rights Commissions. Kevin will place this request.

X. Pride Brunch – June 9

- a. We need nominations for the Bayard Rustin Service Award.
- b. The commission is establishing a committee to organize the various aspects of the brunch.

- c. John would like Alice Wolf as the speaker.
 - i. She was the Mayor at the first pride brunch and she was made an "Honorary Lesbian".

XI. Communications

- a. Comm. Burke is helping to print out brochures. There are a total of 500.
- b. 200 each have been made of the glossary and an informational page on how to be a straight ally.
- c. Aren wants to get brochures from The Network la Red www.TNLR.org
- d. Marianne has looked into give aways
- e. The commission said yes for a tablecloth, temporary tattoos, pens, refrigerator magnets, and possibly wristbands.
- f. We have about \$1600 remaining the allocated budget to spend on these items.
- g. We should post relevant items to our Facebook page more often and then share them on our personal pages.
- h. Caitlin will help process the email addresses with a goal of getting people to "Like" our Facebook page.

XII. Youth Project

- a. John found that people don't usually give money for needs assessments.
- b. Met with Susan Richards, coordinator of afterschool activities in the city, and she was interested in incorporating GLBT-related issues into training of afterschool staff.
- c. There seems to be interest in this project around the city.

XIII. GLBT Veterans Issues

a. Neil is going to look into issues for GLBT veterans and their needs in Massachusetts.

XIV. Diversity Committee

- a. Neil met with and informed the employees of the Diversity Committee of the needs of our commission and what we have and are currently accomplishing.
- b. They were impressed with what the commission has been doing.

XV. Other

- a. Neil would like commissioners to share contact information via Google Docs. The doc will be private, for commission use only.
- b. Mal is participating in Cambridge Open Studios, May 12-13, and would like some commission information (brochures, etc.) to give out.
- c. Cadbury Commons monthly dinner is Wednesday, May 23.
- d. We informed Neil S., member of the public, of the process to follow to become a commissioner if he is interested.

XVI. Public Comments

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm